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State and Federal News

Arts Commission Announces \$2,983,892 in Statewide Grant Awards for Fiscal Year 2004-2005

On June 29, 2004, the fifteen Governor-appointed members of the Arizona Commission on the Arts approved \$2,983,892 in matching grants to arts and community organizations and schools for the 2004-2005 fiscal year.

These grants are funded from the state's general fund, Arizona Arts Trust Fund, Arizona ArtShare, the Maricopa County Attorney's Office and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The state's financial commitment provides a powerful catalyst, matched by local earned and contributed revenue. These resources create opportunities for Arizonans in communities and schools across the state to participate in the arts. They help create an attractive environment for economic development and tourism. And they help stabilize the arts industry in Arizona, which plays a significant role in attracting new business and knowledge workers, retaining businesses and training creative workers.

The Commission is pleased to recognize 134 arts organizations with general operating support grants for providing ongoing public programming.

These organizations are reaching expanding audiences, working to continually improve their artistic and management development, and committed to increasing the cultural diversity of their boards.

308 projects serving every county of the state were recommended for funding through a public peer review, with a

total of 442 awards made. It's interesting to note that 118 (or 26 percent) of the funded proposals were to organizations that had not applied for funding last year. We are excited to see new organizations and groups applying.

We believe that the arts are an integral part of education and note that 182 (or 41 percent) of the funded proposals support arts education programs in the schools or after-school directly or indirectly.

You'll also find that 66 projects serving ethnic-run organizations were funded, adding to Arizona's rich diversity.

To encourage financial stability, eight mid-size and six large organizations received Arizona ArtShare Working Capital Reserves Grants.

The Commission is also providing support to Arizona Alliance for Arts Education (AAAE) to help teachers statewide implement the Arts Standards as well as support to ARTability-Accessing Arizona's Arts for statewide services to connect people with disabilities and the arts.

To see the specific grants by city and county or by alpha order, visit:

www.arizonaarts.org/media_room/releases

NEA NEWS

President George W. Bush has nominated art museum director James K. Ballinger to serve on the National Council on the Arts, the advisory body of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

James K. Ballinger, a specialist in American Art, has been director of the Phoenix Art

Museum since 1982. He has directed major exhibitions including "Americans in Brittany and



Normandy 1860-1910," "Diego Rivera: The Cubist Years," "Frank Lloyd Wright Drawings" and "Frederic Remington's Southwest." Ballinger has served on numerous grant panels for the NEA, the Arizona Commission on the Arts, and the Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture (formerly the Phoenix Arts Commission).

He sits on the boards of the Association of Art Museum Directors, the Phoenix Community Alliance, and the L. Roy Papp Mutual Funds. He is also a member of the Maricopa Regional Arts and Culture Task Force. For more info:

www.arts.gov/about/NCA/About_NCA.html

Director's Letter

Plugging In the Grants Process

We're off to a new fiscal year here at the Commission. We've announced the recent round of grants and now we're beginning to work on the principles and processes that lead to the next round.

Throughout the year we collect suggestions and comments about the granting process and then we discuss them in detail and make recommendations to our Commissioners for consideration.

Each year the grant guidelines change slightly as we incorporate these ideas: all with the goal of making the process more efficient, equitable and perhaps even easier for applicants.

As we prepare the guidelines for the next round of grants, we want to share some additional changes in the works.

The Arts Commission is deep into the process of creating a web-based grants system through our website. Eventually, all arts organizations will apply through an online form. While the changeover to this type of application will take effort on everyone's part, it will ultimately offer some tremendous advantages and is part of our overall plan to improve customer service through the web. Each time you apply,



The Corpstein Duplex on Roosevelt - Home of the Arizona Commission on the Arts

you'll find all your information from your previous application already plugged into your forms. No longer will you have to retype your standard information.

Then when you are ready to complete your final report forms, you'll find your project goals and budget already in place in the form.

This fall as we prepare to launch in January, we will have a period of extensive testing. We will ask a variety of arts organizations to act as beta testers. By having a range of applicants work through the web-based applications, we'll be able to fine tune the process and work out as many bugs as possible so that when the entire field of applicants begin to use the system, it will be ready and relatively problem free. That is our hope.

In addition to the exciting advantages for applicants, the shift to this approach will offer some tremendous opportunities for analysis and arts policy development.

Once the applications are entered, we will be able to mine all those data fields for compelling information that will fuel our

thinking about arts organizations and empower us to be more effective and thorough in demonstrating the public value delivered through your arts programs.

We will share regular updates on the system and launch at www.arizonaarts.org/guide. We encourage you to check in here regularly for news and suggestions.

State of the Arts: A Listening Tour

On another note, we are beginning the process of looking at the Arts Commission's strategic plan. This important document is a living thing, changing from time to time in order to better reflect the constantly changing arts environment in Arizona.

We need your help with this process. The Commission has begun a series of convenings around the state that we are calling listening tours.

Watch our website for dates of focus groups and how to become involved.

Shelley Cohn

ACA Accepts New Applications for Residency Roster in Fall 2004

The Arts Commission will open the *Residency Roster* to new artists and companies in September 2004 in the selected categories of Dance; Folk Arts Performing; Interdisciplinary; Literature; and Folklorists.

All new applicants will be required to interview with a panel and, for performing artists, conduct a live audition with a panel. These panels will be scheduled in October. (Artists currently on the *Roster* in those categories will automatically be continued, but must update their information.)

Next year, in the Fall of 2005, the Commission will accept applications in the selected categories of Music; Theatre; Visual Arts; and Folk Arts Visual. Please visit our website for information and applications. www.arizonaarts.org/aguide

Artist Projects Grants

Artists are invited to submit applications for artist projects grants. These \$5,000 awards are for aspirational projects to create new work proposed by artists in all genres.

Before writing your proposal, we suggest calling an ACA program director in your artistic area to run your idea by him or her. This allows you to receive thoughtful feedback on what has helped make applications competitive with panels in the past.

Visit the Commission's website and you can view detailed descriptions of recent recipients' artist projects:

www.arizonaarts.org/artists

Deadlines:

The postmark deadline for applications for both the *Residency Roster* and for Artist Projects Grants is Thursday, September 23, 2004.

Arts: The Glue That Holds Communities Together

A group of seventh graders are sitting at a table with a group of World War II veterans in Tucson. The young people patiently ask question after question of their elders, methodically collecting the personal stories and historic photographs from Tucsonans who experienced World War II.

One man quietly speaks about baking bread for the troops at night and working an anti-aircraft gun during the day. Another man talks about being on the USS Nevada during the Pearl Harbor attack. Each story keeps the students spellbound as they listen.

The project is the brainchild of the arts group called Voices: Community Stories Past & Present. Not only are these students learning research and writing skills, they also are connecting with the wisdom of their elders, learning social skills, teamwork and cooperation. The end result will be a small booklet that collects these oral histories, creating an important archive for future generations. A teacher writes, "I have watched young people transformed into mature young adults as they listen and document stories of veterans, Holocaust survivors and people on the home front."

Look closer at the program and you'll see that the state helps sponsor this event through the Arizona Commission on the Arts. The World War II Intergenerational Project is just one of 442 projects funded by the state's Arts Commission.

The Arizona Commission on the Arts recently announced the awarding of \$2,983,892 in statewide grants to arts organizations and schools for the 2005

fiscal year. Through these programs, Arizonans will have opportunities to participate in community festivals; education programs in schools and after school; performances, exhibitions, readings, lectures and workshops in the performing, visual, literary and folk arts.

If you look at where the grants go, you'll see projects are taking place in every county of the state, all in partnership with schools and arts organizations of all sizes and arts disciplines. You'll also be surprised at the broad range of projects funded, programs that include artists in the classroom in Bullhead City, a Drug Elimination Family Awareness Program using folklorico dance in Glendale, a poetry project with students in Tuba City and Tempe's Childsplay, which takes its imaginative theater to more than 300 schools each year. These projects touch rural Arizona in powerful ways, providing experiences that might never happen without some sort of seed monies from the state.

How were these projects selected for funding? More than 100 citizens from around Arizona gathered to review proposals. These panelists brought not only arts and education expertise but also the values and knowledge of the needs of their own local communities, making the selection process thoughtful and well considered. In the coming year, each of these projects is subjected to rigorous scrutiny before any funds are issued and each group must be accountable for how the funds are used.

We're learning that the arts are the glue that hold together communities.

President George W. Bush says the study and appreciation of the arts and humanities serve as both the unifying force in society and as a vehicle for individual expression. We use the arts to communicate with each other.

We also know that the arts play an essential role in education in Arizona and that's why 41 per cent of the projects involve schools and after-school programs, giving young people opportunities to create and to learn about other cultures as well as their own.

As we seek to attract new business to the state, we have learned that these industries are looking for environments that provide quality education and quality arts experiences. The arts also play a key role in the state's tourism strategies. Last year, more than 8 million people participated in events supported by the Arizona Commission on the Arts.

In the months after Sept. 11, 2001, people turned time and again to the arts for ways to express the inexpressible — and even the unbearable. *God Bless America* became for a time our national anthem, sung at almost every public gathering. And while the arts give us voice in expressing the difficult moments of our lives, they also bring us joy.

The arts change people's lives, they improve the quality of our lives and they make Arizona a better place. At a cost of 65 cents per person, Arizona's investment in the arts is repaid many times over. Just imagine how a modest increase in the state's investment could benefit the citizens of Arizona.

Dennis Kavanaugh is chair of the Arizona Commission on the Arts. This commentary appeared in the Arizona Capitol Times, July 23, 2004.

NEA Awards Challenge America Grants to 7 Arizona Arts Groups

Arizona Opera Company, Phoenix, \$10,000

To support Opera Briefs, a seven-week in-school program that will be presented throughout Arizona.

Arizona State University (on behalf of Bilingual Review Press) Tempe, \$10,000

To support the expansion of the press's distribution list. Bilingual Review Press will mail its distribution catalog to more than 20,000 individuals and institutions.

Arizona Theatre Company, Tucson, \$15,000

To support a consortium project that will increase access to and appreciation of theater by underserved young people and adults in communities near the Arizona/Mexico border.

Diné bé' iiná, Inc., Ganado, \$20,000

To support the Sheep Is Life Cultural Development Project focused on the distinct Diné (Navajo) rug weaving tradition.

Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix, \$30,000

To support a multimedia advertising campaign designed to reach Phoenix's Latino community through consistent television, radio and print advertising in Hispanic media.

Phoenix Symphony Association, Phoenix, \$25,000

To support One Nation, a consortium project of education programs for the local Native American community. The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community in Scottsdale will partner with the Symphony to expand outreach efforts and increase the number of private music lessons offered.

Tucson Symphony Society, Tucson, \$20,000

To support the Southern Arizona Residency, a consortium project with the Bisbee Council on the Arts and Humanities. The project will consist of an educational component and a public concert in five rural communities in southern Arizona.

Arizona Commission on the Arts *the state arts agency*

Through public support of the arts, the Commission works on behalf of the people of Arizona linking the arts and communities. The Arizona Commission on the Arts provides services and funding to help make the connection between artists and communities vital and of lasting value.

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